

AGENDA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE UTAH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, August 15, 2012 • 9:00 a.m. • Room 20 House Building

Approximate
Time Frame

9:00 1. Committee Business

- Call to order
- Approval of the minutes of the June 20, 2012 meeting

9:05 2. Child Poverty and Public Assistance Data

S.B. 37, "Intergenerational Poverty Provisions," which passed during the 2012 General Session, requires the Department of Workforce Services to establish and maintain a system to track intergenerational poverty-related data to identify at-risk children; identify trends; and assist case workers, social scientists, and government officials in the development of plans to help individuals and families break the cycle of poverty. The committee will hear the status of establishing the system and projections for its full implementation and use.

- Kristen Cox, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services

10:00 3. Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund -- Update

The Employment Security Act provides an employment benefit for an employee who is terminated through no fault of their own (see Utah Code Title 35A, Chapter 4). The benefit is for a maximum of 26 weeks, funded by unemployment insurance contributions collected from employers. The contribution (tax) is imposed by formula on the payroll of each employer's workers (the average tax for 2011 was .85 percent of total wages). Proceeds from the tax are deposited in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The committee will hear an update on the status of the trust fund and any related department recommendations for statutory changes.

- Bill Starks, Director, Unemployment Insurance Division, Department of Workforce Services

10:30 4. Department of Workforce Services Organizational Changes -- Update

The Division of Housing and Community Development was moved into the Department of Workforce Services from the Department of Community and Culture effective July 1, 2012. This change was a result of H.B. 139, "Department of Community and Culture Amendments," which passed during the 2012 General Session. The bill also created an advisory council to advise the department during the transition. The committee will hear an update on this change and any related remaining challenges during the transition.

- Kristen Cox, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services

10:50 5. Status of Child Care Report

The Child Care Assistance Program provides child care assistance to low-income families to allow parents to work outside the home. The Office of Child Care is required to provide a written report to the committee on the status of child care in Utah (see Utah Code Section 35A-3-203).

- Lynette Rasmussen, Director, Office of Work and Family Life, Department of Workforce Services

11:05 6. Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund Report

The Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund (OWHLF) partners with public and private organizations to create and preserve affordable housing for the Utah low-income community. The OWHLF Board is required to submit an annual written report to the committee accounting for expenditures authorized by the board and evaluating the effectiveness of the program (see Utah Code Section 9-4-708).

- Gordon D. Walker, Director, Division of Housing and Community Development

11:20 7. Other Committee Business / Adjourn